

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 12, line 17, delete the word "tension" and insert the word "compression".

B₁^{nc} Fig. 2 shows the locking and securing device 10 in an open and unsecured position. The securing mechanism 80 is held or suspended from the side rail 14 by the engagement member 110. In the embodiment shown, the engagement member 110 has a substantially L-shape; however, other shapes are also within the contemplated scope of the invention. The pin 82 of the securing mechanism 80 extends through an opening 112 in a first arm 114 of the engagement member 110. The engagement member 110 has a second arm 116 which extends at an angle from the first arm 114 in a direction toward the first end 90 of the pin 82. The pin 82 axially extends through the opening 112 of the first arm 114 at substantially a right angle. In the open and unlocked position shown in Fig. 2, the second biasing member 104 is under tension compression.

At page 12, line 28, delete the word "tension" and insert the word "compression".

At page 12, line 29, delete the word "tension" and insert the word "compression".

B₂ Referring now to Fig. 3, the locking and securing device 10 is shown in a secured position where the side rail 14 is positioned against the vertical support 18. The guard rail socket 40 defines opposing openings 120 and 122 which are in an axial relationship for receiving the pin 82. A further axially positioned opening 124 extends through the side leg 64 of the channel 60 for receiving the first end 90 of the pin 82. The pin 82 is at a right angle with respect to the guard rail support 44 and the channel

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60. As shown in Fig. 3, the securing mechanism 80 is moved in a direction of the arrow A by applying a force, or pushing, on the handle 84. The securing mechanism 80 is moved in an axial direction along the X axis such that the second biasing member 104 is no longer under ~~tension~~ compression, but the first biasing member 100 is now under ~~tension~~ compression. The first end 90 of the pin 82 passes through the openings 120 and 122 of the guard rail socket 40 and through the opening 124 in the side leg 64 of the channel 60. The first biasing member 100 is compressed between a first side 43 of the guard rail socket 40 and the pin 98.
